

me then out of pocket and liable for £204 2s. 6d. Since that date £75 2s. 6d. have been repaid, leaving me now £130 out of pocket. When the first Midwives Bill was introduced in 1890 the Midwives Institute obtained no less than £985 in subscriptions and guarantees, and since then the Midwives Registration Association has collected more. I think we also should have a guarantee fund. In 1895 there were 27,395 practitioners resident in the United Kingdom, and if each of these gave a few pence a large sum would soon be subscribed. It is to be remembered that all the Midwives Bills proposed to establish an inferior order of singly qualified midwifery practitioners, who (as it was not proposed to make it an offence if they practised medicine, surgery, pharmacy, and vaccination) would be, if not *de jure*, *de facto* medical practitioners also, thus aiming at the repeal of the Medical Act. 1886. I shall be glad to acknowledge subscriptions, and as Mr. T. Skewes Cox, M.P., intends to ask the House of Commons to read his new Midwives Bill on May 6th next, I shall be glad if those in sympathy with our opposition will help to wipe off the above debt.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,  
Hartington-road, Liverpool. ROBERT R. RENTOUL.

### THE COLLUM MEMORIAL.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—We beg to inform you that at a meeting held at Charing-cross Hospital on March 10th a resolution was passed that a memorial be established to the late Mr. A. T. Collum, M.B., F.R.C.S., assistant surgeon to the hospital, and that if sufficient funds can be raised a recreation ground shall be acquired for the use of the students of the hospital. For this purpose an account has been opened with Messrs. Coutts and Co. All cheques and subscriptions will be gratefully acknowledged by Dr. J. Abercrombie, treasurer, or by the secretaries.

We remain, Sirs, yours faithfully,

C. THOMPSON BISHOP, } Hon. Secs. to  
LONGFORD LLOYD, } the fund.

Students' Club, Chandos-street, W.C., March 17th, 1896.

### HERBIVOROUS ANIMALS AS MEAT-EATERS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I shall gratefully appreciate the favour of information as to well authenticated instances of herbivorous animals becoming occasional meat-eaters. In his "Chemistry of Cooking" Mr. Mattieu Williams alludes to a curious case of carnivorous cannibalism in a pet sheep, which he saw steal and devour raw mutton chops. This animal enjoyed robust health and was by no means ferocious. In semi-Arctic climates, such as semi-isolated districts in northern Norway, it is not an uncommon practice when grass and roots are exceedingly scarce to supplement the food of the cows with raw fish, which communicates a fishy taste to the milk. On the other hand, the *Journal d'Hygiène* of May 3rd, 1894, gives an instance of a cat having adopted almost an exclusively *bonâ-fide* vegetable diet. In the case of men becoming what is absurdly mis-termed "vegetarians" it must be remembered that even their strictest "vegetarian" diet is largely composed of animal substances, as milk, butter, eggs, cheese, and the like. The deficiency of fat in most vegetable foods can be supplied from pure cocoa or chocolate, which contain an excess of fat. In his "Don Juan" (II., 67) Lord Byron has thus happily summed up the whole question:—

"But man is a carnivorous production,  
And must have meals, at least one meal a day;  
He cannot live, like woodcocks, upon suction,  
But like the shark and tiger, must have prey:—  
Although his anatomical construction  
Bears vegetables, in a grumbling way,  
Your labouring people think beyond all question,  
Beef, veal, and mutton, better for digestion."

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

J. LAWRENCE-HAMILTON, M.R.C.S. Eng.

Sussex-square, Brighton, March 13th, 1896.

### ASSISTANTS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—May I be permitted to bring before other principals my experience of the above during the last ten years and ask for theirs?

1. Satisfactory, remained three months, and left to take

hospital appointment. 2. Very satisfactory, remained nearly three years, left to take practice of his own. 3. Very satisfactory, remained one year, left to take appointment abroad. 4. Most unsatisfactory, fits of drunkenness forgiven three or four times, left a housemaid pregnant (stayed eight months). 5. Unsatisfactory, knew nothing of his work, remained one month. 6. Unsatisfactory, never worked, remained six months. 7. Unsatisfactory, repeatedly drunk, but kept him six months. 8. Fairly satisfactory, but very forgetful, remained one year. 9. Satisfactory, and hard working, remained two years, left to enter partnership. 10. Very satisfactory, remained ten months, left to enter partnership. 11. Unsatisfactory, remained two months. 12. Arrived drunk, same condition next day, discharged at once. 13. Summarily discharged for drunkenness, fighting in a public-house, and obscene language in street, police having to be sent for. Nos. 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, and 12 were obtained through agencies, 7 and 13 were obtained through advertisement, the remainder through private sources. All were doubly qualified and all possessed excellent testimonials. These latter I have long disregarded, and, for my part, I am sure the only safeguard is a reference from the last principal, especially as to sobriety, and this seems a most terrible stigma on our profession.

I may add that I find most assistants lamentably ignorant as to the use of drugs; one and all say they are never taught this at the hospitals.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

March 9th, 1896.

A SORELY-TRIED PRINCIPAL.

### THE BATTLE OF THE CLUBS.—XXV.<sup>1</sup>

(FROM OUR SPECIAL COMMISSIONER.)

(Continued from p. 782.)

#### NOTTINGHAM: GENERAL MEETING OF THE PROFESSION AND THE FORMATION OF A UNION.

THE members of the medical profession at Nottingham have now fairly entered into the lists and are arming so as to take their part in the Battle of the Clubs. The initiative in the movement is due undoubtedly to the Nottingham Medico-Chirurgical Society. Matters reached the climax at a meeting held by this body on Jan. 1st last. This is, nevertheless, a purely scientific society. It is not its business to attend to ethical questions, nor does it dispose of funds for such a purpose. There are about a hundred members, but they are not all Nottingham practitioners, for several come from considerable distances. At various meetings there had been a great deal of unofficial conversation respecting the abuses of contract work for clubs and for insurance companies, and the feeling that something must be done was so irresistible that the society could no longer remain neutral, but finally departed from its general rules and held an official discussion on the subject at a meeting which took place on Jan. 1st last. Several speakers then laid great stress on the fact that the names of certain medical men in the service of insurance companies had been advertised and pushed by the canvassers and agents of insurance companies. In seeking to persuade people to insure their lives the agents of the companies had extolled the ability of the medical men in their employ, &c. Thereupon Dr. Coulby proposed, and Mr. Stephens seconded, the following resolution:—

"That in the opinion of the society it is unprofessional and undignified for any medical man to accept the post of medical officer to so-called medical aid societies promoted by and for the benefit of men outside the medical profession."

<sup>1</sup> The previous articles on this subject were published in THE LANCET on the following dates: (1) Aug. 24th, 1895, Brussels; (2) Aug. 31st, 1895, Brussels; (3) Sept. 21st, 1895, Portsmouth; (4) Sept. 28th, 1895, Portsmouth; (5) Oct. 5th, 1895, Eastbourne; (6) Oct. 12th, 1895, Lincoln; (7) Oct. 26th, 1895, Lincoln; (8) Nov. 2nd, 1895, Grimsby; (9) Nov. 9th, 1895, Bexhill-on-Sea; (10) Nov. 16th, 1895, Hull; (11) Nov. 23rd, 1895, Hull; (12) Dec. 7th, 1895, York; (13) Dec. 14th, 1895, Northampton; (14) Dec. 21st, 1895, Fermanagh Medico-Ethical Association; (15) Dec. 28th, 1895, Northampton; (16) Jan. 4th, 1896, Birmingham; (17) Jan. 18th, 1896, Birmingham; (18) Jan. 25th, 1896, Club Practices in Rural and Mining Districts; (19) Feb. 1st, 1896, The Formation of a Provident Medical Association at Folkestone; (20) Feb. 8th, 1896, The Manchester Medical Guild and Medical Aid Associations; (21) Feb. 15th, 1896, The Leicester and Leicestershire Provident Dispensary; (22) Feb. 22nd, 1896, The Organisation of the Profession at Leicester; (23) March 7th, 1896, Loughborough: Local Efforts Defeated by Consultants from Neighbouring Towns; (24) March 14th, 1896, Medical Aid Societies in Small Heath; Medical Clubs at Stockport.